



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

COOS BAY DISTRICT OFFICE

1300 AIRPORT LANE, NORTH BEND, OR 97459

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In Reply Refer To:

1792 (OR-120)
OR120-08-33
EA OR128-07-02

August 20, 2008

Dear Concerned Citizen:

Enclosed is a copy of the Decision Documentation and maps for the Edson Thin CT Timber Sale, OR120-08-33. Edson Thin CT Timber Sale is a portion of Preferred Alternative of the Edson Thin Environmental Assessment (EA). This Decision Documentation will also be posted on the District Internet site: <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/coosbay>.

In accordance with Forest Management Regulations at 43 CFR 5003.2, the decision for this timber sale will not become effective until the Notice of Sale is published in a newspaper of general circulation in the area where the lands affected by decision are located. For this project, the Notice of Sale will be published in *The World* newspaper.

Sincerely,

Teresa Stutesman
for

Paul T. Flanagan
Myrtlewood Field Manager

Enclosure



United States Department of the Interior

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In Reply Refer To:

1792 (OR-120)

EA # OR128-07-02

Edson Thin EA

OR120-TS08-33

Edson Thin CT Timber Sale

DECISION DOCUMENTATION

For the

Edson Thin CT Timber Sale (OR120-TS08-33)

Edson Thin Environmental Assessment

EA # OR128-07-02

Background:

The Edson Thin CT Timber Sale (OR128-TS08-33) is the Proposed Action Alternative of the Edson Thin Environmental Assessment (EA # OR128-07-02) which concluded with a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) dated April 4, 2008. The EA's Proposed Action includes thinning approximately 490 acres of young conifer stands in Matrix and Riparian Reserve land use allocations, construction of approximately 3.3 miles of new road, and renovates or improves approximately 22 miles of existing roads, and decommissions approximately 10.6 miles of new and existing roads. The project units are located in:

Sections 14-15, 22-26, of T. 31 S., R. 14 W.

Section 14 of T. 32 S., R. 14 W., Willamette Meridian.

The Edson Thin CT Timber Sale would implement commercial thinning totaling 248 acres and density management thinning totaling 215 acres in twelve dense conifer stands. The Edson Thin CT Timber Sale would require construction of 3.2 miles of new road, and renovation of 15.5 miles of existing roads. A total of 10.5 miles of newly constructed and existing roads would be decommissioned with this timber sale.

The following tables show the relationship between the Edson Thin CT Timber Sale and EA estimates for treatment acres and roadwork.

Table 1 – Comparison of treatment acres for EA and timber sale.

Edson Thin CT Unit Number	EA Prescription*	EA Estimated Treatment Acres (CT/DMT)	EA Estimated Unit Acres	Sale Treatment Acres (CT/DMT)	Sale Unit Acres
1	CT/DMT	24/22	46	14/22	36
2	CT/DMT	2/3	5	2/3	5
3	CT/DMT	3/6	9	3/7	10
4	CT/DMT	16/7	23	14/9	23
5	CT/DMT	36/40	76	35/34	69
6	CT/DMT	30/5	35	29/5	34
7	CT/DMT	14/2	16	14/2	16
8	CT/DMT	27/30	57	20/29	49
9	CT/DMT	58/51	109	54/59	113
10	CT/DMT	7/11	18	7/10	17
11	CT/DMT	21/13	34	17/17	34
12	CT/DMT	45/16	61	39/18	57
Total		283/206	489	248/215	463

*CT = Commercial Thinning DMT = Density Management Thinning

Table 2 —Comparison of harvest acres and road miles for EA and timber sale.

	Treatment Acres	New Road Construction (Miles)	Road Improvement (Miles)	Road Renovation (Miles)	Road Decommissioning ¹ (Miles)
EA Estimate	489	3.3	0.3	21.6	10.6
Timber Sale	463	3.2	0.1	15.5 ¹	10.5

¹ A portion of the haul route will be renovated by the landowner and fee maintained

The EA is tiered to the *Final - Coos Bay District Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement* (RMP) and its *Record of Decision*, as supplemented and amended, which is in conformance with the *Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement on Management of Habitat for the Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* (i.e. Northwest Forest Plan [NFP]) and its *Record of Decision* as supplemented and amended. The relevant watershed analysis, Watershed Analysis of the Sixes River and New River Area, was completed in January 2008.

The Edson Thin CT timber sale will have no effect² on Oregon Coast Coho Salmon, which is listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. The Edson Thin CT timber sale will have no adverse effect on Essential Fish Habitat as designated by the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

Formal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was initiated on January 18, 2007 for evaluation of effects to northern spotted owl and marbled murrelet. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concurred with the District's determination that the Proposed Action may affect but is not likely to adversely affect the two species. The Service's June 29, 2007 Letter of Concurrence (LOC #13420-2007-I-0184) remains valid with respect to the Edson Thin CT. Results of surveys in adjacent suitable habitat and project disturbance thresholds identified during consultation have been incorporated into the Edson Thin CT timber sale.

¹ Decommissioning would be completed after completion harvest activities and prior to termination of the timber sale.

² USDI 2008, Effects Determination for Edson Thin, USDI – Bureau of Land Management – Coos Bay District, North Bend, OR

The Edson Thin EA is in compliance with the Clean Water Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, and the Clean Air Act. The project area does not contain any Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, designated Wilderness, Wild & Scenic Rivers, or prime and unique farmlands. There were no concerns identified regarding Cultural Resource Values, Native American Religious Concerns, or Environmental Justice issues.

Public Involvement:

The general public was informed of the planned EA through a letter (December 4, 2006) to those on the Field Office's mailing list, which included adjacent landowners and the others who had requested scoping notices of timber sale EAs. An announcement was also posted on the District's Internet site, <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/coosbay> and in a Legal Notice in The World newspaper December 6, 2006 requesting comments for scoping. The public was informed of the EA and FONSI through a direct notification (April 4, 2008) and via a published Legal Notice in The World newspaper (April 7, 2008). Four public comments were received. Public comments about the EA generally fell into three categories: 1) items considered in the EA or addressed and covered by the Final-Coos Bay District Resource Management Plan, 2) items beyond the scope of the site specific EA, and 3) issues indicating a need for clarification or elaboration. I determined that none of the issues raised during the comment period warrant a revision to the EA; therefore, the FONSI is still appropriate.

Decision:

It is my decision to implement the Proposed Action Alternative in the Edson Thin Environmental Assessment (EA # OR128-07-02) as the Edson Thin CT Timber Sale (OR128-TS08-33). The EA resulted in a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), thus development of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required.

This project will improve health and resiliency in young, dense conifer stands through commercial thinning and density management. Design features include retaining and creating snags and downed logs to maintain and enhance stand structure. Density management within Riparian Reserves associated with this project will facilitate development of future stand conditions that contribute to achieving the Aquatic Conservation Strategy. The project will accomplish needed maintenance, repair, and improvement of the transportation network, provide temporary access within the units for harvest activities, and affect the decommissioning of roads to improve watershed conditions and reduce road maintenance liability. This project will produce approximately 6,902 thousand board feet of timber from the density-reduction treatments.

On July 25, 2007, the Under Secretary of the Department of Interior signed a new Survey and Manage Record of Decision³ that removed the survey and manage requirements from all of the BLM resource management plans (RMPs) within the range of the northern spotted owl. This project falls within at least one of the exceptions listed in the modified October 11, 2006 injunction against to 2004 Survey and Manage Record of Decision⁴.

³ July 2007 Complete Title: Record of Decision To Remove the Survey and Manage Mitigation Measure Standards and Guidelines from Forest Service Land and Resource Management Plans Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl.

⁴ March 2004 Complete Title: Record of Decision To Remove or Modify the Survey and Manage Mitigation Measure Standards and Guidelines from Forest Service Land and Resource Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl.

Botanical Special Status Species surveys were completed on all units for which surveys are practical (based on species included in the 2007 Oregon Special Status Species List). These surveys did not identify any Special Status botanical species in the project area.

Rationale for the Decision:

I am choosing to offer the *Edson Thin CT* timber sale for the following reasons:

- It meets the purpose and need for action described in the EA and in the *Final - Coos Bay District Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement* (RMP) and its *Record of Decision*, as supplemented and amended.
- It is consistent with the RMP objectives and management directions for Matrix and Riparian Reserve land-use allocations.
- It is consistent with the objectives of the Transportation Management Plan.
- The No Action alternative fails to address the purpose and need for action.

Administrative Remedies:

In accordance with Forest Management Regulations at 43 CFR 5003.2, the decision for this timber sale will not become effective until the Notice of Sale is published in a newspaper of general circulation in the area where the lands affected by the decision are located. For this project, the Notice of Sale will be published in *The World* newspaper.

Decision Approved by:

Teresa Stutesman
for

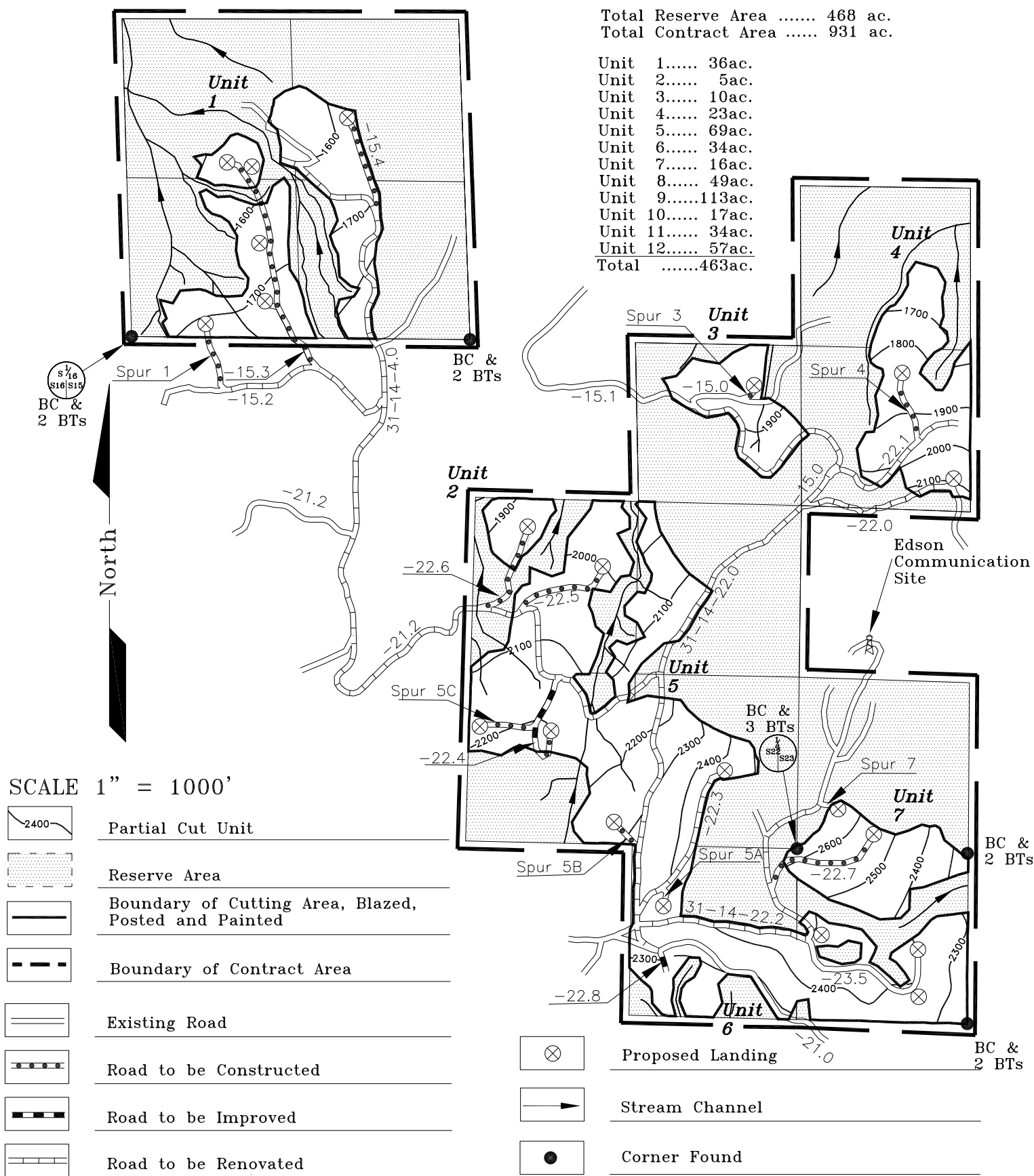
Paul T. Flanagan
Myrtlewood Field Manager

August 20, 2008

Date

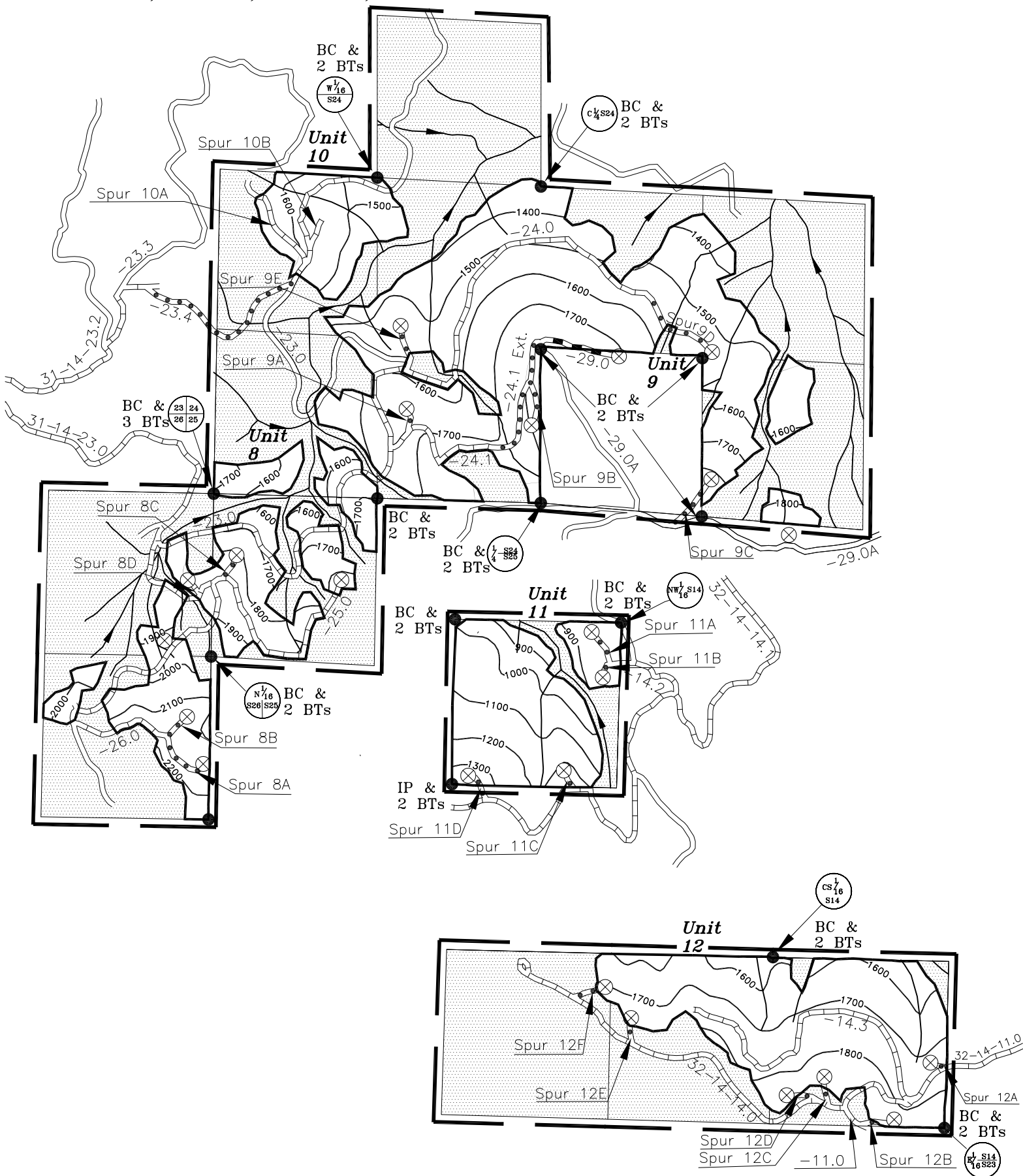
TIMBER SALE CONTRACT MAP
 USDI-BLM COOS BAY DISTRICT
 T.31S., R.14W., Secs14,15,22,23,24,25&26 and
 T.32S., R.14W., Sec. 14; Will Mer.

SALE NO. 08-33
 EXHIBIT A
 Page 1 of 3
 Edson Thin CT



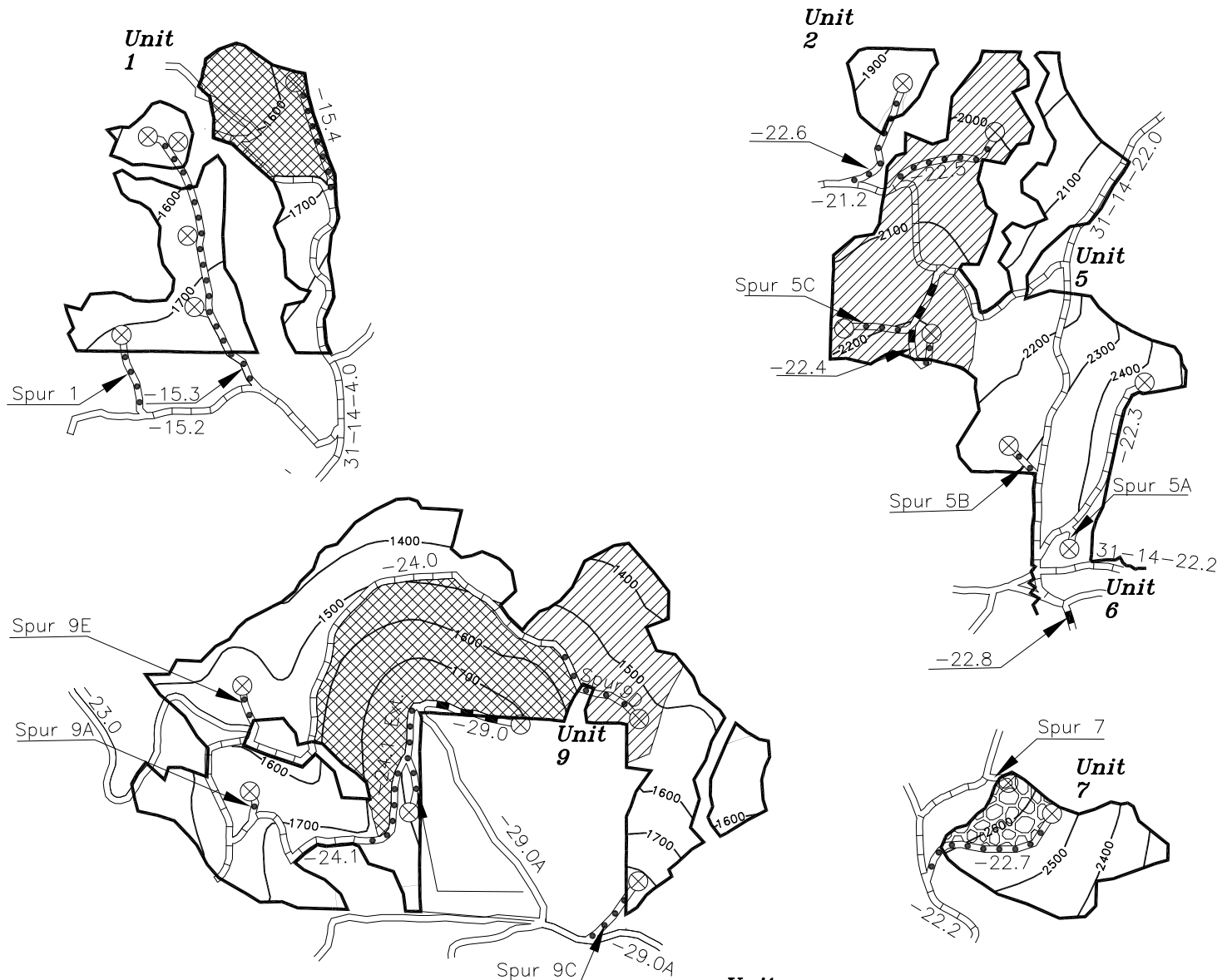
TIMBER SALE CONTRACT MAP
 USDI-BLM COOS BAY DISTRICT
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SALE NO. 08-33
 EXHIBIT A
 Page 2 of 3
 Edson Thin CT



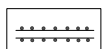
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SALE NO. 08-33
 EXHIBIT A
 Page 3 of 3
 Edson Thin CT



Snag & Down Wood

Unit 1.....	10ac.
Unit 5.....	29ac.
Unit 9.....	16ac.
Unit 9.....	28ac.



Roadside Hazard Reduction, 2-sides



1.5 Snags per Acre



1.0 Down Wood per Acre



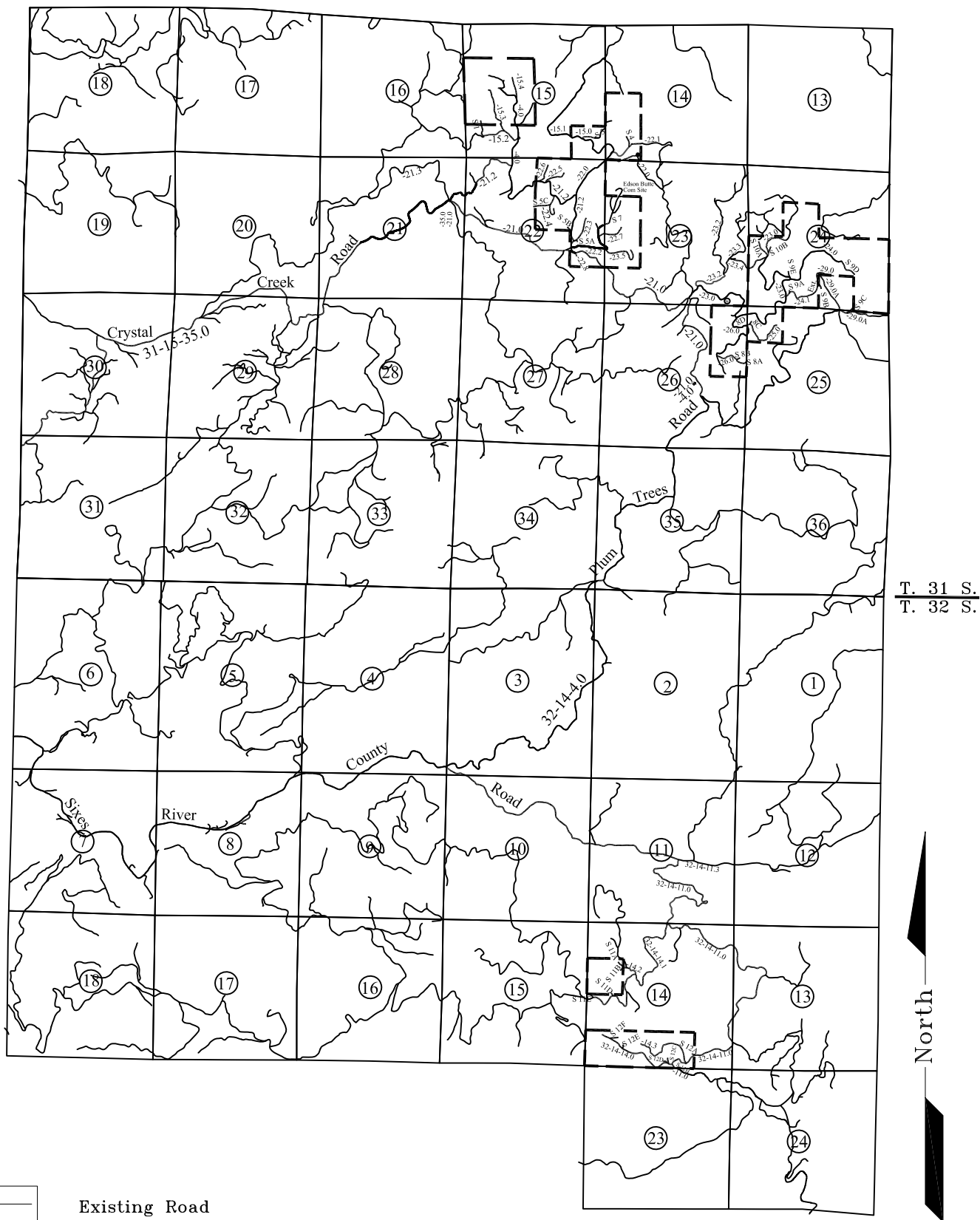
Ground Base Area



Seasonal Restricted Area (MM)

TIMBER SALE CONTRACT MAP
 USDI-BLM COOS BAY DISTRICT
 T.31S., R.14W., Secs14,15,22,23,24,25&26 and
 T.32S., R.14W., Sec. 14; Will Mer.

SALE NO. 08-33
 EXHIBIT A-1
 Page 1 of 1
 Edson Thin CT



Existing Road
 Road Number Break

SCALE 1" = 1 Mile